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A History of the United States and its People from their Earliest Records to the Present Time. Volume III. By ELROY McKENDREE AVERY. (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company. 1907. Pp. xliii, 446.)

THE period covered in this the third installment of the Avery history extends from the middle of the seventeenth century to 1745. In the arrangement by chapters the English colonies are sometimes treated separately and sometimes collectively, according as geographical or political considerations, the abundance or the dearth of interesting materials, the similarity of historical experience, or the motive of mere convenience, may warrant. Separate chapters, however, are devoted to King Philip's War, the European conflicts of the time, the British colonial policy in its economic as well as in its political aspects, the Spanish province of Florida and the career of the French in Canada and the Louisiana country.

In its binding and typography, and in its maps and illustrations, the volume on the whole attains the standard set by its predecessors in the art of the book-maker. Its merits in these respects, when added to the care exercised by both author and publisher in providing for the substantial accuracy of what is written, make any allusion to its faults needful only as a means of suggesting improvements that may enable the work to maintain its position of superiority as a popular history of the United States.

To one who has read with care each of the three volumes the general impression left is, that so long as Dr. Avery sticks to the path of purely political history his narrative is fairly safe, but that when he swerves into the fields of philosophic interpretation, social psychology, or rhetorical embellishment, he is apt to afford the critic a fair mark for a shaft. In the installment under consideration the author appears to have discovered a "growing desire on the part of many Americans of culture for information concerning the social and economic history of their ancestors". "This knowledge", he adds, "has not been without effect upon the chapters herewith submitted" (p. viii). If the application of the knowledge in question was intended to be a sovereign specific for the annalistic ailments that afflict the usual mode of treating what is popularly, though wrongly, called "the neglected period of American history", the reviewer only wishes that the effect had been more marked upon the reading qualities of many of the paragraphs, and sometimes of whole chapters, about the governors and assemblies, by making them less reminiscent of the thrilling genealogy of David. The idea that Dr. Avery seems to have of the way in which the information about the social and economic record of our ancestors should be conveyed is certainly a bit odd when he cites the fact that Mrs. Bradstreet "was the mother of eight children and the author of quaint verses", or that Pastor Thacher "published the first medical treatise printed in America

and died" (p. 135). To this category also may belong the surprising statement that "Colonel Philip Ludwell had been secretary to Governor Berkeley of Virginia and was now the third husband of his widow" (p. 217).

The jingles, mixed metaphors, irrelevant episodes, loose assertions, unexplained allusions and foot-notes disguised as the oracular utterances of some learned person, which occasionally marred the text of the earlier volumes, are not encountered so frequently in the reading matter of this one. One four line stanza (p. 20) and the tripping diction of "By the wonder-working magic of a Dutch 'presto change!'" (p. 63) are the only symptoms of poetry. How "the soldiers . . . eliminated New France from the map of North America, and thus gave birth to a great republic" (p. 191) is a feat that certainly merits some attention. The exploits of Henry Morgan (p. 19) have no bearing upon the practice of piracy along the Carolina coast, and most of what is said about John Law (pp. 320-323) has little connection with Louisiana. Not much meaning can be derived from the phrase "the final struggle for the conquest of New France" (p. vii), or from a sentence like this: "English history was making fast, when, in March, 1689, Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts died" (p. 125). Even if the word "possession" be substituted for "conquest" in the phrase first mentioned, it might clarify the sense but it would not remove the actual error lurking in the intimation that the acquisition of New France by the English was the result of a conscious effort on their part prolonged through many years. Furthermore, in the absence of any contiguous explanation, the casual reader would hardly be able to catch the precise reference in such observations as "a verdict against Lord Baltimore on the ground of *hactenus inculta*" (p. 53); "and there was Samuel Shattock" (p. 128); "the new board of trade and plantations" (p. 211); "The 'country' party soon regained control" (p. 223); and "sweet revenge for the perfidy of Ulloa" (p. 327). Dr. Avery's use of quotation marks, also, is somewhat eccentric. When he injects the opinion of some one, professor or non-professor, into the text he may omit the marks (as on pp. 64, 213), or insert them (as on p. viii); he may place them around single words like "practical" and "sentimental" (p. 135), or he may gird them about sundry ancient quips and authorless epigrams, depriving the reader of the just satisfaction of knowing on whom to fix the responsibility for them.

The presence of so many errors, mistaken generalizations, unsound judgments and misleading phrases in the single chapter on the Wars of the Royal William, Anne, and George might lead one to imagine that the bizarre title must have cast a sorry spell upon it. To begin with, one would infer from the title that the subject-matter was the wars between the English and the French in the colonies of North America, whereas in fact the chapter describes the War of the Spanish Succession in particular and the earlier and later European conflicts

in general. Under what circumstances, it may be asked, was Spain driven from the stage of "the struggle for the heart of North America" between 1492 and 1600 (p. 183)? If she was indeed driven from the stage she managed to retain possession for a while of its west and south-east wings at least. To say of Louis XIV that "rather than trust the succession to the will of the Spanish king", he "entered into secret treaty with England and Holland for the partition of the Spanish king's dominions" (p. 184), and that after Charles II. had died, leaving his kingdom by will to the Duke of Anjou, Louis XIV. had not dared to hope for so much (p. 185), ignores that wily monarch's employment of Harcourt and Portocarrero as much as it reveals a lack of accurate knowledge about the partition treaties and their intricate story. No one at all familiar with the history of Spain could subscribe to such statements as "with the support of England and Portugal, the Austrian archduke contested with Philip V. for the Spanish crown. This aroused the Spanish people from their sleep. Three million Jews and Moors had been expelled and a blight was resting upon the seven millions who remained. There was no Spanish navy; Spanish commerce had died. . . . Spain could not submit to have an Austrian king imposed upon it by heretics" (p. 186). Dr. Avery could hardly have crowded a larger number of obvious mistakes into a few sentences if he had tried. Prussia became a kingdom in 1701, and not in 1713 (p. 187).

Outside of this chapter there are certain other points of difference between the author and the reviewer. To apply the term "pernicious activity" to the enforcement of the policy of the English government from 1660 onward in securing a more efficient control of the colonies is to prejudge the case. Just in what respect the colonial governor was "the manager of a commercial enterprise" (p. 208) is no more evident than that "The English revolution of 1688 proclaimed the right of subjects to dethrone a dynasty" (p. 217) is true. The value of the discussion of the British colonial policy, finally, would have been much enhanced if the statements had been more logically arranged, and if a goodly portion of the matter prematurely given in the second chapter of the second volume of the work could have been placed here in its proper connection.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.

The Writings of Benjamin Franklin. Collected and edited with a Life and Introduction by ALBERT HENRY SMYTH. In ten volumes. (New York and London: The Macmillan Company. 1907. Pp. xxiii, 439; xi, 470; xii, 483; xii, 471; xii, 555; x, 477; xiii, 440; xiv, 651; xvi, 703; xxii, 633.)

UNTIL the appearance of Mr. Smyth's edition, two collections of Franklin's writings have been generally available. The ten-volume edition of Jared Sparks, published between 1836 and 1850, was in its day an historical undertaking of the first magnitude, and one for which